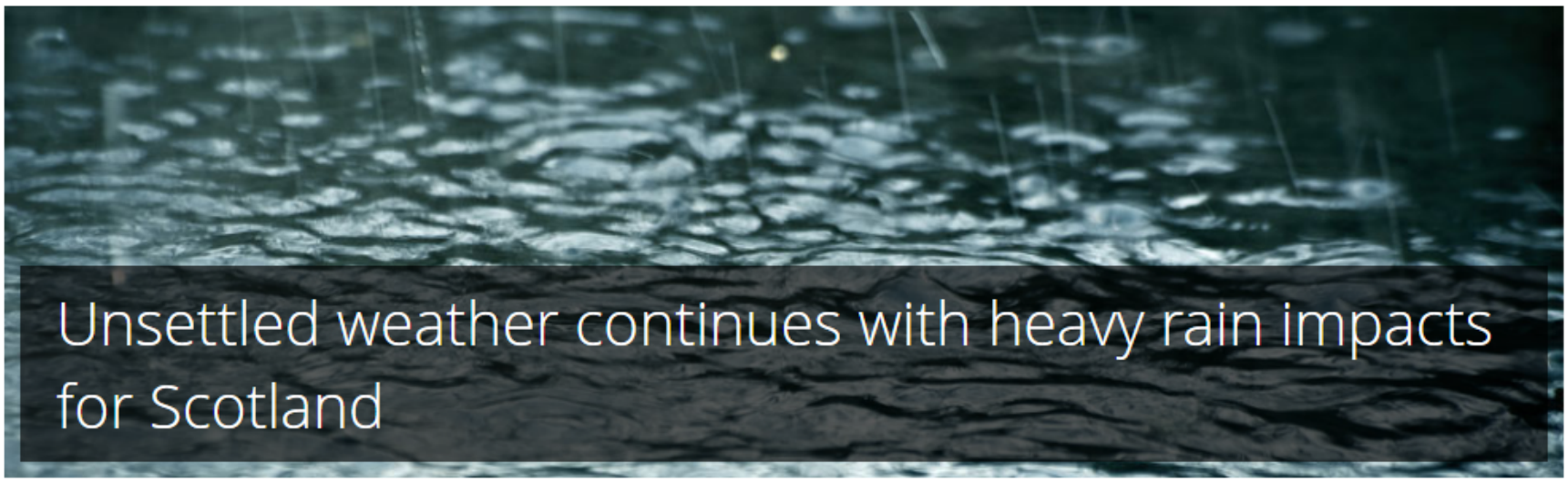

Unsettled weather continues with heavy rain impacts for Scotland

2 January 2016 - Met Office meteorologists are predicting further heavy rain across the UK at times for the next few days

December 2015 was a record breaking month, both for its warmth and rainfall, with exceptional amounts of rain falling onto already saturated ground. Met Office meteorologists are predicting further heavy rain across the UK at times for the next few days.

The impacts of the persistent rain over the next few days are likely to be greatest across eastern parts of Scotland.

An Amber, be prepared, warning is in place for large parts of eastern Scotland where some parts are likely to see over 200 mm of rain between Saturday and Monday. The steady and persistent rain will fall on ground that is already saturated, bringing the risk of further flooding and disruption to travel and utilities.

Frank Saunders, Met Office Chief Meteorologist, said: "We expect heavy and persistent rain to affect parts of eastern Scotland over the next few days, and have already issued National Severe Weather Warnings for its potential impacts.

"Everyone should be aware of the potential for disruption in places from further flooding especially in areas such as Perth and Kinross, Angus and Aberdeenshire where Amber 'be prepared' warnings are in place.

"The weather continues to be unsettled at the moment and we advise everyone to stay up to date with the latest Met Office forecasts and warnings and find out what to do in severe weather so they can plan ahead for the expected weather before it arrives."

Scottish Transport Minister Derek Mackay said: "With Amber alerts in place for parts of eastern Scotland through to Monday we can expect some challenging conditions on the transport network.

"The usual rules apply - please check before travelling and if you do have to travel, do so with extra care, allow extra time, and drive to the conditions.

"The Traffic Scotland website , twitter feed and radio bulletins will have all of the latest information on conditions and closures."

Vincent Fitzsimons, SEPA's Hydrology Duty Manager, said: "Flood impacts may affect communities and cause disruption to travel and infrastructure from Tayside to Angus to Aberdeenshire over the coming days.

"Rivers in Angus are expected to peak overnight on Saturday and remain high into Sunday and Monday. In Aberdeenshire and Tayside, rivers are expected to peak a little later - from Sunday and remain high into Monday.

"Localised flooding is also possible in parts of the Scottish Borders, and in Caithness and Sutherland during Sunday and Monday. SEPA is continuing to work closely with the Met Office to provide as much information as possible.

"SEPA will also work 24/7 to monitor rainfall and river levels. We have been in contact with emergency responders to help them prepare and will update them as necessary. We would urge people to keep a close eye on Met Office forecasts and on SEPA's flood updates page.

"Members of the public can also get information by phone or text by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188. There is also advice on our website about preparing for flooding."

Throughout this unsettled spell Met Office forecasters and advisors are working round the clock with our partners to keep everyone up to date with the latest forecast information so they can plan and prepare for the expected weather.

Last updated: 2 January 2016